

Duxbury Clipper

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DOWN AND OUT: This tree fell across Standish Street blocking traffic and tearing down power lines. Electricity was out for homes all across Duxbury. Photo by Morag MacLachlan

Wintry Weather Keeps Duxbury in the Dark

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

If you take a drive by Christine Cavallo's house on Meadow Lane, you won't see the giant pine tree that once stood near the end of her driveway.

Last Wednesday's blustery, rainy storm blew the tree over onto the power lines running across the street. Cavallo said she lost power for hours, but this was minor compared with what could have happened. Had the tree fallen the other way, it would have been in the direction of Cavallo's home.

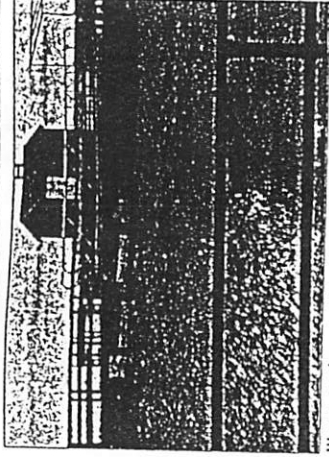


Nancy Blake of Hitty Tom Road took this photo of a tree that fell on a neighbor's home.

Right around lunchtime on Wednesday, many Duxbury residents and business owners were plunged into darkness. The National Weather Service reported wind gusts at the Blue Hills Conservatory at 85 mph and in Boston at 60 mph. DPW Director Tom Daley said trees on Harrison Street and Standish Street fell onto power lines.

"We had crews working from 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.," Daley said. "A couple dozen trees went down in town. Our

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Waves crash against the shore near the Duxbury Yacht Club.

Wintry Weather

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tree crew was basically chasing NSTAR around."

Mike Durand of NSTAR said nearly every town in the state was affected by the storm. About 17,000 residents on the South Shore lost power. As of Thursday morning, all but 200 residents had their power restored according to Durand. He attributed the quick recovery to crews working overnight.

In Duxbury, businesses and residents waited hours for power to return. Department Secretary for the Board of Selectman, Anne Murray said that town hall lost power at noon and eventually closed early at 3 p.m.

"We were in the dark other than the safety lights," Murray said.

Since the power outage occurred during lunch time, local restaurants felt the financial impact.

"We made it through lunch, but then we had to close," said Catherine Callaghan, owner of The Deli in Hall's Corner.

"We are usually open until 5 p.m., but we had to close at 2:30 p.m. We lost revenue."

The situation was similar at French Memories in Snug Harbor. Store manager Amanda Smith said the bakery lost power for three and a half hours. Employees used the light streaming through the shop's large glass windows to assist customers and conducted transactions without the aid of the cash register. But the bakery eventually had to close two hours earlier than usual.

"We generate a quarter of our business each day from the dinner crowd," Smith said. "Our Customers buy bread to go with their meals. We lost that."

While restaurants without power suffered, those with electricity boomed. George Doyle, co-owner of The Powder Point Grille in Millbrook Market, never lost power.

"We were busy," Doyle said. "Busier than usual."

Duxbury Business Association President Anne Antonellis owns Duxbury Mortgage Services in Hall's

Corner. Although she had to close up at about noon due to the loss of electricity, she was happy to report that the DBA did hold its meeting as scheduled Wednesday evening once power had returned.

"Business continues despite the weather," Antonellis said.